



MDA News Digest May 2013



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A Message from Secretary Buddy Hance

Greetings,

As we wind down our fiscal year, we gear up for Spring and all the many events that come with it. This week, we opened the [Maryland's Best Ice Cream Trail](#), just in time for Memorial Day. I encourage everyone to visit at least one of the eight creameries on the trail this year and learn the importance of the dairy industry to Maryland agriculture.



Secretary Hance

June is also National Dairy Month. In addition to visiting the creameries, be sure to enjoy some Maryland cheese, milk and other dairy products!

Our fiscal year begins July 1. We will see generally level funding for most MDA programs. The budget contains \$34.295 million for the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation; \$21.75 million for the Cover Crop Program; and \$3.75 million for the Maryland Agricultural Cost-Share Program. Cover Crop sign up will begin late next month. Keep an eye on our [website](#).

In addition, we will begin two new programs next year: the Agricultural Certainty Program and the Spay and Neuter Fund for companion animals. We will be working out the details over the next several months with plans to have both programs up and running within the fiscal year. We will keep you posted.

Headlines from MDA

Below are some of the news release MDA recently distributed.

May is National Egg Month:
Maryland Farmers Produce 850 Million Eggs a Year



Other News:

- [Maryland Best Ice Cream Trail is Open! Agriculture Secretary Urges Memorial Day Travelers to Visit Dairy Farms on the Trail](#)
- [Governor O'Malley Declares May 19-25 Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week](#)
- [MDA Seeks Members for Agricultural Certainty Oversight Committee; Resumes Due June 1](#)
- [MDA Launches Sensitive Crop Locator to Help Pesticide Applicators Avoid Drift](#)
- [MDA Preparing to Treat More than 12,000 Acres for Gypsy Moth](#)
- [It's Time to Enjoy Maryland's Best Produce; Strawberries Mark the Beginning of Maryland's Growing Season](#)
- [Wineries Will Be Able to Sell Wine at Farmers Markets Statewide Starting June 1](#)
- [Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program \(CREP\) Sign-Up to Begin May 13](#)
- [Secretary of Agriculture Warns of Poisons in the Home; Offers Tips to Protect Children and Pets from Accidental Exposure or Poisoning](#)
- [Maryland Horse Industry Board Presents Touch of Class Award during Grand Opening of New Equestrian Park](#)



- [Three Maryland Equestrians Receive MDA Touch of Class Awards from Triple Crown Winning Jockey, Owner](#)
- [**Governor O'Malley Appoints New Members to Maryland Horse Industry Board**](#)
- [Governor O'Malley Appoints New Members to Maryland Agricultural Commission, Young Farmers Advisory Board](#)
- [**Maryland Recycles Pesticide Containers for 21st Year; Collection Dates Open in June**](#)
- [Cankerworms Causing Defoliation in Southern Maryland Trees Most Affected Trees Expected to Recover Fully](#)

[**Read all press releases.**](#)

On the MDA Blog

The MDA Blog highlights some of the more informal news in and around MDA and Maryland ag.



- [What's Blooming at MDA this Month?](#)
- [MDA Staff Interviewed about Sneaky Invaders on Annapolis Green.](#)
- [National Egg Month: Keep Healthy Flocks for Healthy Eggs!](#)
- [MDA Celebrates with Eggs](#)
- [MDA Conducts Poultry & Rabbit Processing Training in Cambridge](#)
- [MDA Cares](#)

[**Read all Blog posts.**](#)

New AgBriefs Released

AgBriefs are short descriptions of MDA programs and initiatives.

- [Egg Grading and Egg Safety](#)

[See all AgBriefs](#)

Facebook: What are we talking about?

We update our [Facebook](#) page several times a week. Some recent posts are shown below.

- Secretary Hance Presents Governor's Proclamation Declaring May 19 Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Awareness Week in Maryland.
- Farmers Share their Favorite Egg Recipes for National Egg Month.
- Lt. Governor Anthony Brown visits the Preakness Stakes barn prior to Race.
- Deputy Secretary Mary Ellen Setting talks with Secretariate Jockey at Anniversary Celebration.
- Maryland's Best Ice Cream Trail Opens for Memorial Day Weekend
- Marketing Chief Mark Powell. Interviewed on WNAV radio.
- Videos from Cumberland Times about MDA/DNR efforts to protect Old Growth Hemlock trees.



Sec. Hance presents Governor's Proclamation to entomologist Kim Rice and Plant Protection and Weed Management Program Manager Dick Bean.

[Follow and Like us on Facebook!](#)

MDA on the Web

The MDA website is your go-to place for the latest information about MDA. We are adding new information every week.

- **Maryland's Lawn Fertilizer Law** takes full effect in October. For frequent updates, [see the page](#).
- Our redesigned News Room is the hub for all information released by MDA, from press releases to blogs. Visit the [News Room](#).

Visit us anytime at: www.mda.maryland.gov

MDA In Pictures

MDA's [Flickr](#) account has photos of MDA events while our [YouTube](#) playlists have videos about various agricultural topics.



Garrett County Field Day

View [MDA Flickr](#):

- Garrett County Field Day was April 25. [See photos of the event.](#)
- What's in Bloom at MDA. [See photos of flowers growing at MDA Headquarters.](#)
- Maryland Horse Industry Board Speaker Series. [See photos of presentation by Stephen Day](#) of Dover Saddlery.
- Agricultural Leaders from Arizona toured Maryland farms. [See Tour Photos.](#)
- Agricultural Leaders from California toured Maryland farms. [See Tour Photos.](#)

Follow Us on Social Media

On Twitter: MDA has several twitter feeds you can follow for quick updates. We hope you'll follow us.

- [@MdAgDept](#) - the official twitter account of the Maryland Department of Agriculture
- [@MdsBest](#) - the twitter feed for MDA's Marketing Office and the Maryland's Best Program
- [@MdEquines](#) - the twitter feed for MDA's Maryland Horse Industry Board

- [@MdFarm2School](#) - the twitter for MDA's Farm to School Program
- [@MDGypsyMoth](#) - the twitter feed for MDA's Forest Pest Management during gypsy moth spraying season.

On Facebook: MDA has several Facebook pages we invite you to "like."

- [MDA's Official Facebook page](#)
- [Maryland's Best Facebook page](#)
- **NEW!** [Maryland Horse Industry Board Facebook page](#)
- [Maryland Farm to School Facebook page](#)
- [Maryland Young Farmers Advisory Board Facebook page](#)

Upcoming Events & Deadlines:

- [MDA Accepting Resumes for Agricultural Certainty Oversight Committee](#), June 1.
- [Fundamentals of Nutrient Management Training Course](#), June 17-18 in Annapolis
- [Nutrient Management Training and Certification for Nursery Operations](#), July 10 in central Maryland.
- [MDA's Farmers Market Directory](#). Find a market near you and the days and hours its open.

We invite your feedback

Thank you for reading our newsletter. We are always looking for ways to improve how we serve our constituents. Please send your comments, suggestions and ideas to mda.news@maryland.gov or call 410-841-5881. Or contact:

- Julie Oberg, Communications Director, 410-841-5888, julie.oberg@maryland.gov
- Vanessa Orlando, Public Information Officer, 410-841-889, vanessa.orlando@maryland.gov

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Maryland Department of Agriculture | 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway | Annapolis | MD | 21401

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